

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 29, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5393.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5393) granting a pension to Lucinda Richards, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, having considered the bill (H. R. 5393) to pension Lucinda Rickards and the minor heirs of John D. Rickards, beg leave to report that a similar bill was introduced in the Fifty-third Congress; it was reported favorably in the following language, which the committee incorporate as a part of this report:

"The petitioner is the widow of John D. Rickards, who served in Company A, Sixty-ninth Missouri Enrolled Militia, in the years 1862, 1863, and 1864. This being a State militia organization, he was not pensionable under the general laws, but on proof that he had been wounded August 23, 1862, in action with the enemy, he was pensioned by special act of Congress approved February 14, 1885, and was rated at \$8 per month for gunshot wound of left side. The petitioner was married to him January 24, 1865. The soldier died July 4, 1890, at the State insane asylum at St. Joseph, Mo.

"Dr. A. M. Raines testified, May 29, 1894, that he was called to attend John D. Rickards on account of a gunshot wound received in actual service August 23, 1862. The ball, entering the spinal column, passed through one lobe of the lungs, and was extracted by affiant from between the ribs. He was treated by affiant for about six weeks, and his mind failed from the time he was wounded until his death in the asylum. 'I believe and have no doubt his insanity was the result of said wound.'

"Dr. D. V. Van Syckel, of Canton, Mo., testified, June 2, 1894, that he examined the soldier and found a gunshot wound of left side of lung, near the vertebra, affecting the great spinal nerves of the back, especially motor and sentient nerves, passed through one lobe of lung and was extracted from between the ribs. 'I am confident, from the appearance of the man at time of examination, his insanity resulted from the wound, and finally his death, which took place in the St. Joseph Asylum.'

The committee recommend that the bill do pass.

